UNITED NATIONS

Distr.
GENERAL

SG/CONF.1/SR.1
9 November 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN RELIEF TO THE PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday,
5 November 1979, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. WALDHEIM (Secretary-General of the United Nations)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT (SG/CONF.1/1 and Add.1; E/ICEF/664)

1. The PRESIDENT said that the representatives of the States Members of the United Nations had gathered together because they shared a common concern for the welfare of the Kampuchean people and were determined to meet the desperate need which existed following the massive tragedy which had befallen that nation. He had convened the Conference to seek the support of Governments for United Nations efforts to provide all possible humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people; that help was required on a massive scale, on both a bilateral and multilateral basis. The purpose of the Conference was not to discuss the root causes of the suffering of the Kampuchean people, or to attach blame, but to alleviate human suffering. He therefore hoped that all participants would co-operate in announcing individual contributions to the programme which the international community had mounted.

2. The United Nations had been engaged over a period of months in a major effort to deal with the problem. The initial phase had consisted of the programme jointly conducted by UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), working in close collaboration with the World Food Programme, which had arranged for the shipment of substantial quantities of food. So far, some 6,000 tons of food and medicine had been shipped. Clearly, however, that was only a beginning; in addition to a substantial increase in emergency food and medical aid, the need for which was obvious, other forms of assistance must be provided, such as help in enabling Kampuchea to grow food as quickly as possible in the form of seeds and tools supplied by FAO. There had been substantial difficulties in initiating operations under the circumstances existing in war-devastated Kampuchea, in which transport and logistic support were virtually non-existent. Efforts were being made locally to cope with the problems but there was a clear and compelling need for a greatly increased international programme.

3. On 19 October he had convened a press conference to emphasize the joint UNICEF/ICRC appeal for $110 million to meet the requirements which those two bodies had identified for the next six months. The current UNICEF/ICRC programme would amount to a yearly figure of $250 million. Clearly the size of the programme would depend on obtaining satisfactory arrangements for distributing the supplies. In that connexion, he urged all countries concerned to co-operate fully with UNICEF and ICRC in facilitating the distribution of supplies on the basis of arrangements that would ensure that they reached the suffering civilians for whom they were destined. It was necessary to ensure that help was rendered on a truly humanitarian and non-partisan basis. Although some progress had been made, some difficulties remained to be resolved, and the Executive Director of UNICEF was currently in the area seeking to work out improved arrangements.

4. Substantial additional requirements had been identified arising from the massive flow of refugees from Kampuchea into Thailand over recent weeks, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would co-ordinate assistance for the refugees. A senior survey team from UNHCR had recently visited Thailand and found

(The President)

that an additional sum of $60 million, including $23 million for the construction of camps, would be needed over the next eight months to meet the emergency. He expressed appreciation to the Government of Thailand for its spirit of co-operation and its announcement that it would fully apply the principle of first asylum; that was a fundamental principle which it was important to honour in dealing with refugee problems everywhere.

5. Concentration on the problem of emergency humanitarian relief to the people of Kampuchea by no means indicated a lack of appreciation of the pressing need to deal with problems of human suffering and survival elsewhere in the world. The case of Kampuchea, however, was one of the great tragedies of the age, and the contributions of States were urgently required if the United Nations was to meet its moral responsibility to do what it could to alleviate human suffering of such an appalling magnitude.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE

6. The representative of FRANCE said that the people of a country in Asia were dying and the United Nations had met to try to save them. War and oppression had already profoundly weakened the Khmer people, but now their very existence was threatened; Cambodia's tragedy, of a duration and magnitude without precedent in recent history, was a challenge to the international conscience. He paid tribute to the Secretary-General for responding to France's request that the Conference should be convened.

7. The objective was clear; it was to save an entire people. It was not possible to disregard the political context of the problem or indeed the military operations which were at that very moment extending its scope; France had already made known its views in that respect, and it was convinced that the United Nations would strive to promote peace in the area. But States must consciously leave aside political considerations and polemics which would prevent any solution of the one problem which mattered, the survival of a people. The duty of the international community was a moral duty, and it must do everything in its power to ensure that the hopes placed in it by the Khmer people and by world opinion were not disappointed. By taking exceptional action, the United Nations would be able to prove that it could contribute to building a more humane world, a world of greater solidarity.

8. The efforts already made by UNICEF, ICRC, UNHCR, the World Food Programme and numerous voluntary associations deserved recognition even though the magnitude of the obstacles encountered had prevented that endeavour from being as effective as it might have been. In spite of their own difficulties, the countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations had also done a great deal and were prepared, for the sake of regional solidarity, to continue on that path; they should be helped in that endeavour. All those who wielded practical authority in the area must leave aside judgements and condemnations and help in the implementation of a rescue plan for the people concerned; the activities envisaged would in no way prejudge a political solution. All means must be used to save the Cambodian people from irreparable disaster. International opinion was deeply

(Representative of France)

disturbed by the sufferings of the Cambodian people and could not allow the vast movement of solidarity which united it to be thwarted or delayed by any considerations which were not consistent with the need to save human lives.

9. The purpose of the Conference was threefold: first, to assemble resources commensurate with needs, second, to ensure that aid was dispatched and distributed urgently, efficiently and impartially under international control and third, to consider the future of the refugees. In view of the scope of the tragedy and the nature of the appeal made to the international community, his Government believed that Europe as such must stand in the forefront of the endeavour and affirm its solidarity of views and capacity for action. France's share in the contribution to be made by the European Economic Community was over $10 million and, in addition, it would be giving about $5 million worth of direct food, financial, agricultural and medical aid. Ultimately, it would be prepared to contribute to the reconstruction of the country in any sphere in which its aid was sought. At the request of the President of the Republic, the Government had also decided to launch a nation-wide fund-raising campaign for the Cambodian people, and private aid initiatives had emerged on a broad scale in the country.

10. The last few weeks had clearly shown that the transport and distribution of aid was the crucial problem. The obstacles must be overcome at all costs by using methods that were as exceptional as the situation itself. Vital equipment must be installed in the ports as well as the necessary labour force; waterways must be brought into use, in particular the Mekong river; and not only Phnom Penh airport, but also the airports of Battambang and Siem Reap, as well as rural airstrips, must be opened to humanitarian traffic. Roads must be re-opened, in particular for relief convoys which should be organized wherever necessary. If all those efforts proved inadequate or unworkable, food and medicines should be dropped by aircraft. France would make the necessary transport aircraft available for that purpose to international organizations if they so wished. The aircraft could fly under the United Nations or Red Cross flag.

11. On the fate of the refugees, his Government welcomed Thailand's humanitarian attitude; it was clear that some part of the aid programme must be devoted to the Khmer refugees accepted by Thailand. All nations must admit a larger number of refugees. France had already admitted 20,000 Cambodians over the previous four years and it had recently decided to admit a further 5,000 South-East Asian refugees. That represented a contribution of over $70 million for the Cambodians alone.

12. France was convinced that the international community would show that it was capable of making a generous effort commensurate with the tragedy; it was not a question of making a gesture to ease one's conscience, but of acting responsibly to avert the disappearance of a member of the international community. The French people had felt intensely the impact of the calamity that was engulfing the Khmer people; long-standing ties of history linked it with that people, who were peace-loving and had given the world one of the most sophisticated civilizations of all

(Representative of France)

times. France therefore wanted to share in the common effort to save that people.

13. The representative of IRELAND, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Economic Community, said that the Government and peoples of the Member States of EEC had been deeply concerned at the ravages of famine and disease afflicting the people of Kampuchea; the immediate humanitarian needs of the Kampuchean people must be met generously and with the utmost urgency. The Member States of EEC had made available $7 million from community resources prior to the joint appeal by UNICEF and ICRC, and on 30 October the Council of Ministers of EEC had approved a further $35 million to support the international relief effort. Taking into account bilateral contributions of Member States amounting to $13.5 million, the over-all contribution of EEC and its Member States amounted to $55.5 million. EEC would closely follow the humanitarian situation in Kampuchea with a view to further assisting in any way it could to relieve that situation.

14. If a calamity of unprecedented proportions was to be averted in Kampuchea, it was vital that relief should be brought quickly and effectively to all those in need. It was therefore important that the international agencies should be able to function with the fullest co-operation of all concerned in carrying out their operations; EEC had full confidence in their ability, given the proper facilities and support, to distribute relief supplies in Kampuchea. The scale of the problem was such that the programme would have to pick up momentum very quickly if relief was to reach the very great numbers of people reported to be in extreme distress in time to save them. The plight of those who were suffering in such vast numbers must be put before any other consideration. Although the humanitarian problems of Kampuchea could be fully resolved only within the terms of an acceptable political settlement, the parties concerned and the international community as a whole must unite in ensuring that the international relief effort met the immediate humanitarian challenge effectively and with all the necessary urgency. Food and medical supplies must reach all those in need of them throughout the country and also the large number of Kampucheans in Thailand. All those concerned must co-operate in seeing that the necessary transport and supply facilities were available and functioning so as to ensure that the relief programme was fully operative in all areas where the Kampuchean people were in need.

15. It was clear that the scale of the problem required a very rapid increase in the scale of humanitarian aid reaching the Kampuchean people if the lives of many thousands were to be saved. The international relief operation must therefore be stepped up as a matter of urgency, and there must be the fullest co-operation in ensuring that the international agencies were able to increase the scale of relief efforts without delay. His Government had in recent weeks donated $300,000 to the relief effort, both directly to the UNICEF/ICRC operation and in the form of support to the activities of a number of Irish non-governmental organizations.

(Representative of Ireland)

It would be making available a further $100,000 immediately and would also be considering additional ways of providing support. It was only by a united effort on the part of all countries, both nationally and at the international level, that the situation could be effectively remedied.

16. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that the United Nations had met to act, and to undertake, through individual contributions, an international commitment to deal with a human tragedy of almost unimaginable proportions. The grim facts in Kampuchea were that a nation of 7 million had been ravaged by famine and disease, brutality and war, and some 2 million had perished. It was possible that an entire generation of Kampucheans had been lost. The reality of Kampuchea was most powerfully conveyed by the images of suffering carried in the daily newspapers. The presence of representatives of Governments at the Conference reflected the concern of millions of human beings in all countries who cared about the suffering in Kampuchea. It was an issue that transcended politics. The differences among Governments on the political situation in Kampuchea must be put aside, and the authorities involved in Kampuchea must turn away from calculations of political and military advantage and consider the overwhelming human issue at stake. He praised the Government of Thailand for its courageous decision to allow into its country large numbers of people fleeing famine and disease. That placed an immense burden on the Thai Government, and it deserved the full support of the internationcal community.

17. The President of the United States had committed a United States contribution during the next six months of $30 million for international relief efforts in Kampuchea and $9 million for the Khmer refugees who had fled to Thailand. The United States Congress was approving $30 million of additional funds for the next phase of relief efforts, in addition to the already substantial United States contributions to the refugee programme in the same area. The United States would give full support, in any way that would be helpful, to the efforts of the United Nations, UNICEF and ICRC, and private voluntary groups. The international community must pursue every avenue and use every means to bring relief supplies to people desperately in need. Whether through Thailand, through Viet Nam or by sea, by truck, airlift or river transport, food and medicine, in sufficient quantities, must be delivered. The international relief agencies must be allowed to do their work to ensure that the help reached the people so desperately in need.

18. The representative of JAPAN read out a message from Mr. Sonoda, the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that the Government of Japan strongly believed that it was the urgent task of the international community to extend assistance to the Kampuchean people and that humanitarian concern must transcend political differences among all parties involved; appealing to international organizations to organize relief efforts; and expressing the hope that the Conference would accelerate humanitarian emergency aid to the Kampuchean people and thereby strengthen the role of the United Nations in solving humanitarian problems in the world.

(Representative of Japan)

19. His Government had participated in international relief efforts which represented the conscience and hope of mankind throughout the world. Yet at present it was possible only to administer emergency and stop-gap treatment. It was profoundly distressing that the international community had not taken action long ago to help solve the basic problems and conflicts in the area, and it was the paramount duty of all States Members of the United Nations to find ways and means by which the Organization could be an effective instrument for the solution of the Kampuchean problem. Humanitarian concerns should be placed above political differences in order to establish a reliable system administered by international organizations which could quickly bring humanitarian assistance to the suffering Kampuchean people. At the same time, relief efforts should be made to lighten the financial and other burdens imposed on Thailand and other neighbouring countries by the massive influx of refugees.

20. In response to the appeal by UNICEF, his Government had made a contribution on 14 September. It had contributed 500 million yen to ICRC for its relief programmes for the Kampuchean people, 300 million yen to the Government of Thailand for its relief programmes for refugees in Kampuchea and, from its pledged contribution to the World Food Programme, $500,000 for Thai evacuees in the border area. His Government welcomed the appeal for contributions to the ICRC/UNICEF six-month emergency assistance plan, and in response to that appeal it planned to provide additional assistance amounting to 1 billion yen, mainly in the form of food and medical supplies which would be channelled through international organizations to people in Kampuchea and to Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. Thus its total contribution to Kampuchean relief programmes amounted to approximately $10 million. The Japanese Red Cross, representing the private sector, had decided to send a medical team to the area. Furthermore, his Government had contributed $31.5 million to the 1979 UNHCR Indo-China refugee relief programme, a portion of which went towards relief activities for Kampuchean refugees. Plans were under way to provide an additional contribution of approximately $30 million to UNHCR for its 1979 Indo-China relief programme, and his Government also intended to support the 1980 UNHCR relief programme for Indo-China.

21. He appealed to all Member States to join those international efforts and called upon all the authorities involved in the relief programme to intensify their co-operation with ICRC and UNICEF for the speedy distribution of relief supplies to the Kampuchean people. In view of the severe bottle-neck caused by limited distribution capacity, he hoped that, in addition to air and sea routes, land routes from Thailand could be used for the effective and rapid distribution of relief materials to the Kampuchean people. His Government hoped that the United Nations would continue to confront the problem in a vigorous manner and supported the proposal by the Government of Thailand to send a United Nations team to observe the situation in the Thai-Kampuchean border area. The responsibilities of the United Nations extended well into the future, and it should begin to consider how it could effectively contribute to the restoration and rehabilitation of the afflicted areas and ensure the peace and stability of the region in the future.

22. The representative of the PHILIPPINES said that the international community was faced with an extreme situation in which nations must set aside their differences and act, for the right to life of an entire population, numbering in the millions, was in extreme jeopardy; the Kampuchean people were going through the slow and excruciating process of death by starvation or disease. He noted that there might be some who hesitated to help because of their desire to maintain peace in the area and not to appear to take sides or to disturb the delicate political balance existing in Kampuchea; they should, however, realize that acting together in response to an emergency was not to pronounce judgement on anyone. For the suffering Kampucheans, the matter was very simple and had very little to do with politics, ideologies, economics, national interests or the balance of power; they simply needed food, medicine, clothing and shelter. The United Nations must show that it could act to strengthen peace and translate the universal concern for human rights into concerted action to save a nation in distress. Furthermore, each nation should remember that it could at sometime in the future be in the same desperate position as the people of Kampuchea, at which time it would hope that at least part of the world would show humanitarian concern for those in distress.

23. To his Government the matter was of particular concern because of the proximity of Kampuchea to the Philippines and the fact that it was not the first time that such problems had arisen in the region or that the Philippines had responded unhesitatingly and in a positive and humanitarian manner to such needs. His Government had already set up two reception and processing centres for Indo-Chinese refugees arriving by sea, with a total capacity of 60,000 persons. Furthermore, his Government pledged an initial sum of $15,000 to the effort to save the Kampuchean people, both within and outside the country. Filippino medical doctors and personnel would also be made available, if they were allowed to participate in extending medical help to the refugees.

24. It should be remembered that the fate of the brave Kampuchean people would lie for all time on the conscience of the world community. He hoped that now, when the need was pressing, the world community would be able to set aside differences and other constraints and give expression to the spirit which had united all nations in the first instance, namely the sense of being their brother's keeper.

25. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that the welfare of the peoples of Indo-China, no less than the stability of South-East Asia, was a matter of great concern for his country, which had sought to involve itself constructively in the affairs and development of that region since the Second World War. Regrettably, the international community today was witnessing in Kampuchea a tragic manifestation of the upheavals through which the region had been passing. The disaster that had befallen the Khmer people and their culture was possibly without parallel in modern times. Casualties ran into the hundreds of thousands, and the extent of man's inhumanity to man in that modern holocaust seemed to have known no limits. Seldom before had it been more vital to allocate to humanitarian considerations such absolute priority in a context where the underlying and continuing causes cried out for condemnation.

26. To date, $A 2.5 million had been raised through the Kampuchean relief appeal launched by Australian non-governmental relief organizations. The Government itself

(Representative of Australia)

had already contributed almost $A 4 million to support international efforts to alleviate the plight of civilians in Kampuchea. Following a contribution of 4,000 tons of rice to the World Food Programme, cash grants of $A 250,000 had been made to ICRC, UNICEF and the World Food Programme. An additional sum of $A 250,000 had been given to the Government of Thailand because of the burden imposed on that country by the flow of refugees from Kampuchea. The sum of $A 200,000 was also being allocated to the Australian International Disaster Emergencies Committee (IDEC) to support a number of voluntary relief agencies. Three airlifts of supplies from his country to Phnom Penh had been made at a cost of approximately $A 250,000. In response to an appeal by ICRC and the Thai Red Cross, his country had agreed to fund an Australian medical team to work for six months among refugees in Thailand.

27. The co-operation of all the authorities concerned was important in order to ensure that aid reached every person in need. The international relief agencies had defined an appropriate programme of relief assistance and were sparing no efforts to bring relief to all the innocent victims of oppression and conflict in Kampuchea. They deserved the support of the entire international community in their endeavours. Without their work and co-operation neither governmental nor private relief efforts would have been possible in Kampuchea.

28. The Government of Thailand had already made major sacrifices to accommodate the heavy influx of refugees across its borders, and only if the entire international community was prepared to lend assistance would that country be able to cope with the problem. His country, which had admitted more Indo-Chinese refugees in proportion to the size of its population than any other nation, was prepared to provide such assistance. The international community was united in its determination to avert a major human catastrophe. Immediate efforts must be directed to providing and supporting operations to alleviate disease and deprivation throughout Kampuchea. Lives would be lost if aid was not moved in expeditiously and efficiently. Yet the economy and infrastructure of Kampuchea were shattered. Without a concentrated effort to improve the means of distribution of relief supplies on the ground, the best intentions could be frustrated by logistical problems. It was therefore not too early to consider the long-term rehabilitation of Kampuchea. The conditions that had given rise to that disaster must never be allowed to recur. The task of reconstruction would ultimately be as important as the immediate need for relief. Accordingly, his Government had decided to double its contribution by pledging $A 4 million in addition to the $A 3.8 million that it had already provided. That new contribution would thus raise his Government's total contribution to $A 7.8 million. Taking into account the $A 2.5 million raised by Australian non-governmental relief organizations, his country's contribution would be well over $A 7.8 million.

29. The representative of CANADA said that the resettlement programme for 50,000 Indo-Chinese refugees, to which Canada had committed itself at the August meeting in Geneva on the South-East Asian refugees, was well under way, thanks in large part to the joint efforts of individual Canadians and the federal and provincial Governments. However, the tragic situation in the region was continuing and it was now clear that the entire Khmer people of Kampuchea were faced with annihilation. The survivors of the brutal rule of the Pol Pot régime were affected

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(Representative of Canada)

by war, disease and famine on a scale unequalled in modern times and did not have the means, the strength or the physical security to plant new crops. The ability of the world community to prevent the annihilation of the entire Khmer people through famine and warfare would be a measure of the humanity and effectiveness of the global institutions which had been established. The work already done by ICRC and UNICEF to persuade the Governments concerned to agree to the delivery of food and medical assistance to the suffering civilian population was to be applauded, although they had met with all too little success in gaining the co-operation of the warring régimes. It was now the turn of the international community to come to the aid of those who had so valiantly been trying to deal with the tragedy. In that connexion, she praised the open asylum policy and generous assistance of Thailand.

30. When the facts of the situation in Kampuchea had become more clearly known t. the Canadian people, they had encouraged their Government to triple the initially pledged contribution of $5 million. She was confident that the resulting government contribution of $15 million would be complemented by private donations, just as private sponsorship had allowed Canada to accommodate more refugees than the Government alone could have managed.

31. Furthermore, the people of Canada demanded that their representative should convey their deep sense of outrage at the man-made causes of the tragedy in Kampuchea. The root causes of that appalling situation, i.e. the political problems confronting Indochina, and Kampuchea in particular, must be solved. The Vietnamese Government, along with the Heng Samrin and Pol Pot authorities, must stop playing politics with the very lives of millions of people. They must immediately allow the full and free operation of the international relief organizations that were even now ready and able to stem the tide of death. That they had not already done so must forever condemn them in the eyes of the world. Stability must be restored to the area as soon as possible, so as to reduce the threat to international peace and security. Furthermore, independence and territorial integrity must be returned to Kampuchea under a government that reflected the genuine wishes of the Kampuchean people. Hositlities must be brought to an end and the foreign forces now occupying much of the country must be withdrawn. Without a political settlement, hopes for an end to the human suffering in Kampuchea would be in vain. Some satisfactory proposal must be developed and adopted to allow the interested parties to come to the negotiating table. Canada would support any proposal that offered some hope of success in that area.

32. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM said that his Government had for a long time been seriously concerned about the situation in Kampuchea. When reports had first been published about the violations of human rights in Kampuchea, they had aroused the horror and indignation of the Parliament and people of the United Kingdom. Although those reports had been dismissed by some as "unreliable", it was a sobering thought that, had the United Nations been permitted to act more decisively at the time, many thousands of lives might have been saved. Now, as a result of massacre, foreign military intervention and famine, as much as one half of the population of the country might already have been lost and the survivors were in piteous condition. The international community must not fail the people of Kampuchea a second time, but must act and act fast.

(Representative of the United Kingdom)

33. In early October the United Kingdom Government had announced a programme of relief for Kampuchea under which the equivalent of $4 million would be provided to ICRC and UNICEF. Furthermore, the equivalent of $1 million would be provided to British voluntary agencies to support their relief efforts for Kampuchea. A gift of at least 1,800 tons of rice would be made available through the World Food Programme for distribution in Kampuchea under the auspices of the ICRC/UNICEF relief programme, at a cost to the United Kingdom Government of over $2 million. A Royal Air Force Hercules aircraft had been put at the disposal of ICRC and was now making regular flights on a daily basis from Bangkok to Phnom Penh with vehicles and relief supplies. An aircraft had been chartered to carry relief supplies provided by British voluntary agencies from the United Kingdom to Kampuchea, at a cost of over half a million dollars. Thus, the total cost of the direct relief programme amounted to about $7.5 million to which should be added indirect contributions through aid being provided by the European Community as a group, 17 to 18 per cent of which approximately $7.5 million was being borne by his Government and people.

34. The international community owed a debt of gratitude to the Government of Thailand for its recent reaffirmation of the principle of asylum for all refugees - already numbering in the thousands - who were crossing its borders to escape the continuing war, famine and epidemics in Kampuchea. In that connexion, he said that Thailand and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees must be provided with additional material support.

35. The international agencies had outstanding experience in relief operations of the kind and their present programme had been set up along practical lines and merited international support. Its success, however, would ultimately depend not only on securing the necessary financial support but also on careful identification of needs and on securing the fullest co-operation of all concerned, in particular with regard to distribution of supplies within Kampuchea.

36. In conclusion he exressed his gratitude for the background information and documentation for the Conference provided by UNICEF and said he hoped that further information would be available concerning the security of deliveries of supplies to and within Kampuchea.

37. The representative of the FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY said that the starving people of Kampuchea could not wait for help until the necessary political solutions had been found, and the international community must take immediate and vigorous action on their behalf. Although large-scale efforts had already been initiated both within and outside the United Nations system to provide the people of Kampuchea with the necessary assistance, more resolute action was imperative. In that connexion, he wished to reiterate the appeals made by the President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of his country that those responsible should pave the way for relief action. The Minister for Foreign Affairs had continued to emphasize the demand for speedy and effective assistance to the people of Kampuchea that he had made in his statement before the General Assembly during the current session.

(Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany)

38. His country would contribute approximately 31 per cent of the total additional assistance to the value of $35 million to be made available by the European Community. In addition, his Government had provided $3.6 million as his country's national contribution to UNICEF and ICRC, as well as to the Government of Thailand and private charitable organizations. During the remainder of the current year, his Government would make available an additional $5.5 million to help the people of Kampuchea. It was also endeavouring to provide a further amount of $5.5 million in 1980. A delegation from his country was, moreover, just about to begin negotiations with the Government of Thailand concerning financial assistance in the amount of approximately $11 million to be channelled to areas in Thailand most severely affected by the refugee problem. His country had included Kampucheans in its admission quota for refugees from South-East Asia, and further Kampuchean refugees would thus be admitted in addition to the 800 Kampucheans who had already found refuge in his country. His Government would continue to do everything in its power to help fulfil the desire of the people of Kampuchea to live in peace and dignity.

39. The representative of BELGIUM said that the civilized world was dismayed at the misfortunes that had struck the people of Kampuchea. It had been said in many quarters that the passivity of that people was similar to that of the victims of the Nazi concentration camps. However, in several respects the present holocaust was even more horrifying. In any event, the world would not be able to claim that it had not been aware of the fate of the Kampucheans. The world had rarely been so clearly confronted with the responsibility to show fundamental international solidarity. That demonstration of solidarity must, however, come from all sides and without delay. His country therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to convene the current Pledging Conference. From the indications already given by a number of Governments, it appeared that considerable sums of money would be made available and that the international community would be able to mobilize the resources required to alleviate the suffering of the Kampuchean people. He welcomed the fact that that Conference was being held in the General Assembly Hall where all too often only clichés had been uttered.

40. His country would contribute its share of the contribution of $55 million announced by the countries of the European Economic Community. On a bilateral basis, his Government would also make available BF 9,750,000 for joint UNICEF/ICRC action in Kampuchea and BF 7,300,000 for UNHCR assistance in Thailand to Kampuchean refugees. The possibility of a further contribution being made subsequently was under consideration. Moreover, the sums that he had announced did not include action undertaken in his country to receive and integrate South-East Asian refugees and the payment of related costs.

41. His country encouraged UNICEF, ICRC, UNHCR and the World Food Programme to continue their humanitarian assistance to all the needy in a neutral and impartial manner. It also appreciated the measures taken by the Government of Thailand to assist refugees in its territory. There was no question of the international community's humanitarian assistance slackening or being prohibited. Although the Government of Viet Nam and the other parties concerned were confronted with enormous problems, they must do everything within their power to facilitate the task of the international agencies, whether it was a question of admitting a sufficient number of UNICEF or ICRC officials into Kampuchea, organizing or facilitating transportation of humanitarian assistance or allowing those two

(Representative of Belgium)

agencies to exercise a degree of local control over distribution of aid, which was wanted by the international community specifically for the Kampuchean population. If there were other essential needs in the region they must be stated so that they could be considered as well. Finally, the solution to the political problem must be sought in the context of respect for the principles laid down in the Charter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

42. The representative of SWEDEN said that although the international community had received reports of severe famine in Kampuchea several months earlier, international efforts to assist the people of Kampuchea had only recently begun to gain significance. Many members of the international community had felt frustration and anger at the slow pace at which the current emergency relief programme had emerged and at the many obstacles that had stood in the way of an effective programme of assistance. Now that that programme was finally under way, supplementing the efforts being made through bilateral channels, it naturally had his Government's full support. Since the programme would require large-scale transport operations by land and sea, his country hoped that the international relief organizations would be offered the full co-operation of all parties concerned in that regard.

43. The exodus of refugees from Kampuchea to Thailand placed a heavy responsibility on the international community, which must support the humanitarian efforts being made by the Government of Thailand to assist the large refugee population. The programme of co-operation that UNICEF, ICRC and UNHCR had initiated with the Thai authorities also had his Government's full support.

44. His Government had allocated SKr 20 million to the joint UNICEF/ICRC operations in Kampuchea. Some SKr 5 million had, furthermore, been contributed to ICRC, the World Food Programme and UNHCR for their programmes for Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. In all, his country's pledges amounted to approximately $6 million. His Government was ready to do whatever it could to support international efforts, including making further contributions to relief programmes and to programmes aimed at restoring Kampuchea's own food production.

45. The representative of THAILAND expressed his delegation's appreciation of the timely convening of the current Pledging Conference and said that, without immediate and sustained action on the part of the international community, the future was uncertain for the civilian population inside Kampuchea as well as for those who were fleeing war and famine in increasing numbers. It was impossible to assess how many millions had already died, how many persons had been uprooted from their homes and forced to seek refuge in any country that might accept them, or how many more would leave if they could. What was clear was that the greatest wave of enforced migration since the Second World War was taking place in South-East Asia, and the greatest impact of that wave was being felt in his country.

46. As more and more people had left Kampuchea, Laos and Viet Nam, his country had tried to respond with compassion. During the past four years his country had provided temporary refuge for hundreds of thousands of refugees and, currently, there were perhaps as many as 300,000 persons poised to cross the border into Thailand if there was any flare-up in the fighting. Since many of those people were ravaged by disease and starvation, large numbers of them would die even if they received immediate assistance.

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(Representative of Thailand)

47. Many countries and international organizations had responded generously to his country's request for help in coping with that growing burden. However, his country's resources were limited, and it needed the help of compassionate peoples and nations everywhere. As a result of renewed fighting in Kampuchea in the past month, more than 200,000 people had sought refuge in his country. His people firmly believed in the dignity and worth of man. They did not inquire into the refugees' political persuasions and they were not unduly concerned at the burden that they would have to bear, whatever the attitude of the international community. His country's Prime Minister had stated that nobody would be turned back, however large the influx of the refugees might grow. His Government also offered to provide the bona fide international relief agencies concerned with the necessary facilities for transporting relief assistance destined for the Kampuchean people. It would likewise continue to co-operate with the United Nations and other international organizations concerned. Furthermore, his Government had taken the initiative in co-ordinating international efforts at Bangkok by inviting 18 prospective donor countries to work together with the representatives of the various international relief organizations. From the outset, the Thai Red Cross had been pursuing medical and other relief efforts among the Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. He wished to express his Government's appreciation to UNICEF, the World Food Programme, UNHCR and ICRC, as well as to the special representative of the Secretary-General in Thailand, for their invaluable assistance.

48. His country fully supported the attempt being made by concerned nations and international humanitarian agencies to distribute food and medical supplies for the relief of Kampuchea, regardless of the political coloration of the belligerents. Although the burden resulting from the refugee exodus from Indo-China had grown over the past two years, the number of those that seemed ready to share that burden had also grown. The momentum that had been gained must not be allowed to slacken. The assistance that had been forthcoming to his country to help maintain the existence of the Khmer people must be increased. Concerted international action must include: a greater effort to relieve the burden on Thailand, both by increasing the rate of third-country resettlement for Indo-Chinese refugees and by providing supplies for Kampuchean refugees in his country until such time as they could return peacefully to their country; continued efforts to provide all the needy within Kampuchea with life-sustaining supplies, regardless of politics; recognition of the fact that solutions to those problems would necessarily be of a long-range character and would require the co-operation and acquiescence of many parties that had as yet not been able to reach agreement, as well as of the fact that, in the meantime, the task of continuing to provide assistance must be shared more equitably by all nations in accordance with their capabilities; and finally, a greater international effort to restore peace to Kampuchea and guarantee the survival of an independent Khmer people and nation.

49. Thailand renewed its commitment to co-operate with all nations in seeking peaceful solutions and in providing refuge to desperate Kampucheans. His country's co-operation in that respect was to be regarded as its pledge and contribution to the current international humanitarian effort. The necessary help should be forthcoming from the international community to satisfy not only immediate needs but also long-term requirements. Although relief measures would keep a certain

(Representative of Thailand)

proportion of the Khmer people alive, a peaceful solution to the problem of Kampuchea was the only means of putting an end to a tragedy of unparalleled magnitude in the history of mankind.

50. The representative of SINGAPORE said that the convening of the current Pledging Conference presupposed that there was an emergency situation in Kampuchea, and it was therefore puzzling that the Minister of Defence of the Heng Samrin régime should recently have stated in Moscow that all talk of a famine in Kampuchea was the invention of Western imperialists and Chinese expansionists. A statement issued by the SPK Information Agency of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, circulated at the request of the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam in document A/34/623, made a similar assertion. However, evidence from objective sources, such as ICRC, UNICEF, FAO and the World Food Programme, showed convincingly that the people of Kampuchea were suffering from famine, disease, malnutrition and other forms of deprivation. According to an ICRC report, approximately 2.5 million Kampucheans were in extreme need of food and medical and other supplies. Disease had taken a heavy toll of those weakened by hunger, and the number of children under the age of five was abnormally low. The actions of the members of the Heng Samrin régime contradicted their words. If there was no famine, he wondered why the National Unity Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea had established an Anti-Famine Committee. Moreover, in September of the current year the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Heng Samrin régime had addressed an urgent request to the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme for emergency food aid.

51. That evidence and the condition of Kampucheans who had fled across the border into Thailand established clearly to what extent the people of Kampuchea were suffering. The human family had a duty to take prompt action to relieve their distress. In the present instance, Member States must concentrate their efforts on how the international community could assist all Kampucheans, regardless of political considerations. His Government, which did not recognize the Heng Samrin régime, was nevertheless whole heartedly in support of all efforts by the international community to bring relief to the people of Kampuchea, including those who lived under the political control of that régime.

52. Four principles should govern the relief efforts of the international community: aid must be for the civilian population of Kampuchea; aid must be distributed impartially, without discrimination between those living under the control of the two rival groups; delivery of aid must be monitored in order to prevent its diversion to assist the war effort of the belligerents and the foreign forces; the civilian population of Kampuchea that had fled to Thailand must also be given aid.

53. His Government pledged a contribution of $10,000, half of which was to be allocated to the UNICEF/ICRC programme and the other half to the UNHCR programme.

54. The representative of the UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS said that his delegation wished to take advantage of the opportunity to describe the large amount of humanitarian assistance, primarily food and medicines, which had been provided by

(Representative of USSR)

the Soviet people to the friendly people of Kampuchea in its hour of need. At the request of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Soviet Union had, during the initial stages of the restoration of the Kampuchean economy, provided, in the form of grants through government channels and gifts from Soviet public organizations, approximately $85 million worth of goods, including grain, medical supplies, automobiles and buses, petroleum products, sheet iron, cement, paper, bicycles, radio receivers, cloth and household items. Furthermore, a programme was now being worked out to provide immediate assistance to the people of the People's Republic of Kampuchea for the restoration of the main branches of the economy, in particular, health, energy production, communications, agriculture and forestry, education, and municipal services and utilities. Soviet assistance, which was provided, like that from all socialist countries, on a bilateral and explicitly humanitarian and disinterested basis, had been of great help in restoring normal conditions in the country, as had been attested by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in document A/34/564. Governments which were genuinely interested in providing effective assistance to the Kampuchean people through international organizations or on a bilateral basis should channel their efforts through the Government of Kampuchea, namely the People's Revolutionary Council. In that connexion, he observed that statements made by certain delegations to the Conference, in particular that of Canada, did not reflect the humanitarian purposes of the Conference or the interests of the Kampuchean people.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

Distr.
GENERAL

SG/CONF.1/SR.2
15 November 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN RELIEF TO THE PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 5 November 1979, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. WALDHEIM (Secretary-General of the United Nations)

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Closure of the Conference

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE (continued)

1. The representative of PAPUA NEW GUINEA said it was sad that political rivalries should be causing suffering to thousands of innocent human beings. As the Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea had said at the current session of the General Assembly, his Government appreciated the role played by the ASEAN countries in meeting the problem, welcomed the establishment of refugee-processing centres in the ASEAN region, although the success of those centres would depend on the willingness of developed countries to accept more refugees, and therefore supported the provision of urgent relief to the civilian population, the resettlement of the displaced Kampucheans and the efforts of the Secretary-General to co-ordinate relief assistance.

2. The announcement by the Executive Director of UNICEF that it would take at least $110 million to meet the needs of the joint programme of UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) over the next six months clearly showed the gravity of the situation. Unless massive assistance was speedily provided, the people of Kampuchea would continue to face a disastrous shortage of food, medical supplies, shelter and transport, which might threaten peace and security not only within the region but in the entire world. His Government appreciated the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and by national and international humanitarian organizations in providing relief assistance to the civilian population of Kampuchea. It also paid tribute to those Member States that had made commitments to provide humanitarian assistance. As far as Papua New Guinea was concerned, his Government had pledged $US 300,000 for the refugee programme in Indo-China, and it would honour its commitments.

3. The representative of MALAYSIA said the response to the Secretary-General's initiative showed that the peoples of the world wanted to assist the Kampuchean people, who were suffering starvation and disease as a result of armed conflict and natural disasters. International assistance must be provided immediately to the people of Kampuchea and the Kampuchean refugees in Thailand.

4. Malaysia was already participating in the assistance effort, as it was receiving refugees in transit. Forty thousand of those refugees were still in Malaysia, which placed a very heavy burden on the country. For that reason, Malaysia could only pledge a sum of $50,000, as a token of its concern for the situation of the Kampuchean people. His Government hoped that the aid would be channelled to the civilian population, without discrimination and regardless of political considerations, and that the responsible authorities would do all they could to facilitate its distribution. His Government also appreciated the contribution already made by some international organizations and various relief agencies.

5. The representative of INDIA said that, because of the historical and cultural links between the two peoples, the people of India had been deeply moved by the suffering and deprivation of the Kampuchean people, whose situation was all more tragic because it had been caused not by natural phenomena but by the actions of certain individuals.

6. The most opportune initiative taken by the Secretary-General once again demonstrated his concern for humanitarian causes and his desire to contribute to international peace and security. The Government of India also appreciated the efforts made by United Nations agencies to alleviate the situation both within Kampuchea and in the countries where there were refugees, especially the efforts of UNICEF, UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Tribute should also be paid to several non-governmental organizations, such as OXFAM, Catholic Relief Services, the World Council of Churches and the Quakers.

7. The Government of India had not waited for an international initiative to provide relief and assistance to the Kampuchean people. India had already announced a gift of 1,000 tons of rice, valued at about $400,000, and had sent medicines worth over $6,000. Arrangements were being made by the Government of India to provide, on a bilateral basis, food-stuffs and medicines worth over $25,000.

8. The representative of HUNGARY said that Hungary had provided direct assistance to the legitimate Government of Kampuchea and considered that the reconstruction efforts undertaken by the People's Revolutionary Council deserved the support of the international community. Hungary had already sent medicines and food-stuffs to Kampuchea and was ready to furnish additional aid. In the view of his Government, it was important that all assistance should be channelled through the legitimate Government of Kampuchea. Assistance programmes should not be turned into tools for interfering in the country's internal affairs. His Government considered that the task of the United Nations and of all members of the international community was to remedy the present situation in Kampuchea and to create normal living conditions there.

9. The representative of ITALY said that the Conference would allow an effective and well-planned continuation of the relief operations already undertaken by international and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to the civilian population of Kampuchea. The Conference would also reflect the image of an international community united, beyond its political divergences, in a display of solidarity, and the Italian Government was confident that the parties most directly concerned would give their full co-operation to the relief operations.

10. Over $6 million of the contribution of the EEC countries described by the representative of Ireland would be borne by the Italian Government. In addition, his Government had already granted $120,000 to the UNICEF assistance programmes and had sent to Bangkok more than 20 million lire in medical supplies. Moreover, it intended to make a gift of 1,000 tons of rice, worth $400,000, through the World Food Programme, and it was ready to furnish a medical unit. Since July 1979, Italy had granted asylum to 1,453 refugees from South-East Asia, including many Kampucheans, and it planned to receive 400 more by January 1980.

11. The representative of SWITZERLAND said that the actions undertaken by the ICRC, UNICEF, UNHCR and other United Nations agencies should be continued with the

(Representative of Switzerland)

support of the international community. In addition to the appropriations it had already approved (including 1 million Swiss francs for the dispatch of milk powder), the Federal Council had decided to make a special appropriation of 3 million Swiss francs for the international relief programme. It was also ready to provide the services of the Swiss Disaster Relief Corps, as had been requested.

12. The Swiss Government considered that international assistance should go to all who needed it, without discrimination. Neither the rationale nor the goals of such assistance should be political. All parties concerned should intensify their co-operation in order to ensure the survival of the Kampuchean people.

13. UNICEF and ICRC must be allowed to have adequate personnel and resources in Kampuchea to distribute the international aid. The Swiss Government hoped that the authorities concerned would facilitate the relief operations. It also hoped that the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 would be fully applied and that it would prove possible to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflicts raging in the Indo-Chinese peninsula.

14. The representative of the NETHERLANDS said that the plight of the Kampuchean people, who were suffering from the ravages of famine and disease, called for a special effort by the international community. The Netherlands Government wished to express its profound respect for UNICEF and ICRC, which under extremely difficult circumstances had prepared an emergency programme covering the coming six months. It also paid tribute to non-governmental organizations, particularly those assisting the relief effort in Thailand.

15. In addition to its share of the European Economic Community's contribution, the Netherlands Government had in recent weeks announced contributions to several organizations amounting to a total of $2,246,000, as follows: $150,000 to the UNICEF/ICRC operations, $346,000 to the World Council of Churches, $150,000 to OXFAM and $1.6 million to the World Food Programme. The Netherlands Government was also prepared to make available an additional amount of 5 million guilders, or approximately $2.5 million. It had not yet decided on the exact destination of those funds, but they would be allocated to programmes of direct assistance to the people of Kampuchea as well as to Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. Lastly, his Government pledged 2.5 million guilders, or $1.25 million, to the programme for Kampuchean refugees in Thailand to be implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

16. The Netherlands Government called on all authorities concerned to continue to co-operate with a view to facilitating the distribution of food and medical supplies and to ensure the effectiveness of the relief operation. In addition to immediate assistance, the possibility of long-term structural assistance must also be investigated, because Kampuchea would need to be reconstructed completely. The members of the international community must consider their future efforts now, so as to be prepared once the emergency relief phase was ended. In the view of his Government, the region had the necessary instruments available to facilitate such long-term assistance in, for example, the Mekong Commission and the Asian Development Bank.

17. The representative of BURMA said that the tragic plight of Kampuchea was a sad consequence of the armed conflict which had been raging in the country for almost a year. The famine, hardship and deprivation suffered by the population had no parallel in history. Burma believed that that humanitarian problem required urgent international action under the auspices of the United Nations. In that connexion, the United Nations agencies and other international organizations already engaged in relief assistance to the Kampuchean people should be commended. He pledged a sum of $10,000.

18. The representative of the GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC recalled that for several years Kampuchea had been experiencing considerable difficulties and shortages of food, pharmaceutical products, medical supplies and other necessities. The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, which was trying to remedy that situation, could count on the solidarity of the international community, provided that certain elements did not take advantage of the situation to intervene in the country's internal affairs.

19. The German Democratic Republic attached great importance to the international effort of solidarity, to which by a unilateral decision it was contributing, inter alia, in the provision of means of transport. Since March 1979, it had dispatched to Kampuchea a special air-lift of medicines, milk powder and baby food. A second delivery had been organized in September and preparations were now being made for a third consignment, by air or by sea, which would include food-stuffs, bicycles and teaching materials. The German Democratic Republic would also be sending medicines to Kampuchea and would participate in the training of Kampuchean citizens for community services. The Red Cross Committee of the German Democratic Republic was also providing assistance to the Kampuchean people.

20. In the view of his Government, the necessary conditions must be created to ensure a settled way of life for the Kampuchean people, who should soon be able to overcome their difficulties. Every effort must be made to help them to succeed in doing so.

21. The representative of VIET NAM welcomed the initiative taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in convening the Conference with a view to remedying the current situation in Kampuchea, which was characterized mainly by a serious shortage of food, medicines, housing and means of communication. The Kampuchean people themselves had made tremendous efforts for the reconstruction of their country but, until such time as there was a clear improvement in the situation, the problem must be solved by humanitarian methods in the shortest possible time.

22. Despite its many economic problems and the threat of further aggression, Viet Nam was doing everything it could to help its brethren in Kampuchea. It had sent 120,000 tons of food supplies, 10,000 tons of rice seed and large quantities

(Representative of Viet Nam)

of medicine, farm implements and general supplies, to a total value of 131 million dong, or approximately $50 million. Furthermore, a movement was developing among the people in the Vietnamese provinces bordering on Kampuchea to provide emergency relief to the inhabitants of the neighbouring Kampuchean provinces by sending tens of thousands of tons of food, rice seed and general supplies. The Government and people of Viet Nam viewed the bilateral aid they were providing to Kampuchea as a high international obligation, and they welcomed the large contributions made by a number of countries and the efforts exerted by UNICEF and ICRC.

23. Nevertheless, in the view of his delegation, any humanitarian aid to Kampuchea would be truly effective only if those providing it scrupulously respected the right to independence and sovereignty of that heroic people, which had borne so many sacrifices for its right to self-determination. From that standpoint, Viet Nam fully supported the position of the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, as expressed in the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kampuchea on 4 November 1979. In accepting and distributing food aid provided without political conditions by several countries - the USSR, Viet Nam, and other socialist countries - and by various international organizations - ICRC, UNICEF, OXFAM - the Council had shown its goodwill and its desire to co-operate, contrary to slanderous allegations that had been made. That external aid, together with the people's mutual assistance and food production efforts, had made it possible to end the threat of famine in several regions of Kampuchea. In the next two months 570,000 hectares of rice would be harvested, and 200,000 hectares of dry-season crops would help considerably to bridge the seasonal gap in the following year. The people of Kampuchea regarded those achievements as a great victory, attesting to their vitality, their confidence and their support for the People's Revolutionary Council, which was in control throughout the country and was administering it as the sole authentic and legal representative of Kampuchea. Anticipating an increase in foreign aid, the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam had agreed on the opening of the Mekong to navigation and the use of the port of Phnom Penh for the delivery of international aid, which thus far had been passing through the port of Komom Som and the Pochentong airport. From Phnom Penh, the People's Revolutionary Council was in a position to distribute aid to any region of the country, including the areas bordering on Thailand.

24. The statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had also indicated that the People's Revolutionary Council was prepared to accept any bilateral or multilateral aid that was given without political conditions. The Council had not made recognition of the People's Republic of Kampuchea a prerequisite for humanitarian aid and had expressed its readiness to enter into discussions in a spirit of equality and mutual respect, with countries and international organizations wishing to aid Kampuchea while respecting its sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in its internal affairs. It would welcome all who were motivated by goodwill and who wanted to enter the country to find out on the spot how they could help to check the threat of famine in Kampuchea.

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(Representative of Viet Nam)

25. In the view of his delegation, the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kampuchea reflected the true situation of that country and contained reasonable and rational proposals aimed at creating favourable conditions for the effective implementation of humanitarian aid by the international community. Once again, Viet Nam hoped that the Conference would be a success. It was regrettable that some delegations, including the Canadian delegation, had misused the humanitarian forum offered by the Conference to make statements hostile to Viet Nam. His delegation was, of course, prepared to engage in a political debate so that it could tell who were the parties truly responsible for the tragedy, but it categorically rejected the statements of Canada and certain other countries concerning Viet Nam. It hoped that steps would be taken to prevent a repetition of such abuses.

26. The representative of NORWAY said that the Norwegian Government would support all efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the Kampuchean people, whether in Kampuchea itself or in refugee camps and centres in Thailand. It appealed to all parties concerned not to let political considerations hinder the implementation of the humanitarian programmes that were being organized.

27. The Norwegian Government greatly appreciated the efforts that had been and were being made by the International Committee of the Red Cross and by such United Nations agencies as UNICEF, UNHCR and the World Food Programme, and the decision of the Government of Thailand to receive all refugees from Kampuchea.

28. A televised campaign carried out recently under the auspices of the Norwegian Refugee Council had resulted in contributions totalling 70 million kroner, or approximately $14 million, for refugees throughout the world. The Norwegian Refugee Council had decided to set aside 5 million kroner as a first contribution to relief assistance for Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. The Norwegian Red Cross had dispatched a fully equipped field hospital to the Thai/Kampuchea border area, and had made a contribution of 1 million kroner through the ICRC. The Norwegian Church Relief had granted 3.25 million kroner through the World Council of Churches and OXFAM, and the Norwegian Save the Children Fund had given contributions amounting to 1.25 million kroner.

29. The Norwegian Government had contributed 8 million kroner through the World Food Programme for aid to the people of Kampuchea. It had also contributed to the construction of warehouses in Thailand and had granted 2 million kroner to the joint UNICEF/ICRC programme. Subject to parliamentary approval, the Norwegian Government intended to grant an additional contribution of 8 million kroner, which would bring its total contribution to 10 million kroner or approximately $2 million.

30. The representative of POLAND expressed the hope that the Conference, which was exclusively concerned with emergency humanitarian relief to the Kampuchean people, would yield positive results. The genocide perpetrated in that country by the Pol Pot régime had already claimed 3 million victims and the remainder of the population had been reduced to bondage. His Government had followed closely the people's resistance to that régime and the establishment of a new government, which was to be congratulated in particular on its non-aligned position and its desire for peace. Kampuchea should certainly receive assistance, provided that its sovereignty was respected and that such assistance was not used as a pretext for interfering in its domestic affairs or for purposes contrary to the interests of the Kampuchean people. Moreover, that assistance should be subject to the consent of the Kampuchean authorities and should be provided solely through the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, if the situation were not to be exacerbated.

31. As soon as the country had been liberated, Poland and the other Socialist countries had started to render aid to Kampuchea. As stated in the document on the situation in Kampuchea (A/34/623), the Socialist countries had dispatched over 200,000 tons of food to Kampuchea, as compared with only 200 tons dispatched by the international organizations.

32. Poland itself had supplied the Kampuchean Government with aid on unconditional terms, with a view to meeting the most pressing needs, mainly in the form of food, medicines, essential goods, means of transport, radio equipment, etc. That aid, which amounted to a total of 50 million zlotys, would be delivered in its entirety by the middle of December. The Polish Red Cross Committee, associations of women and young people, trade unions and the Polish Committee for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia and Africa were likewise participating in the relief effort. The Polish Government and people would continue to assist the Kampuchean people in the months that lay ahead.

33. The representative of NEW ZEALAND said that his country warmly supported the emergency relief operations for the Kampuchean people which the United Nations was undertaking in co-operation with the ICRC, and trusted that they would be continued and strengthened in the future. The New Zealand Government had contributed, through the New Zealand Red Cross, to refugee relief in Thai border areas. It had also made a cash grant of $100,000 to the joint ICRC/UNICEF relief programme in Kampuchea. His Government continued to keep the situation under review on the basis of reports from international agencies working in the area.

34. The New Zealand people had responded generously to the appeal for support for the ICRC and United Nations programmes, as well as for other relief organizations. Voluntary agencies had already sent substantial quantities of money and materials to the region, which were expected to increase as distribution channels and other necessary machinery were established.

35. The representative of CZECHOSLOVAKIA said that his country, without engaging in propaganda, supplied aid to peoples who were in a difficult economic and social situation as a result of foreign interference, the aftermath of colonialism, wars of oppression, natural disasters and epidemics. It had decided to take part in the Pledging Conference for emergency humanitarian relief to the people of Kampuchea because it was convinced that the United Nations should also assist Kampuchea.

36. In 1979, Czechoslovakia had supplied Kampuchea with food, pharmaceutical products and medical supplies, equipment for medical stations, clothing, textiles, building materials and consumer goods in a total amount of 55 million Czechoslovak crowns, excluding transport costs. Czechoslovakia was also participating in Kampuchea's economic and social recovery within the framework of long-term bilateral treaties under which, for example, an electric power station, a sugar refinery and a motor-car assembly plant were to be built. All of that aid was being supplied through the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea and in keeping with a spirit of solidarity with the Kampuchean people who, having suffered from foreign aggression like their neighbour Viet Nam, now desired to live in democracy and peace.

37. The representative of DENMARK said that the Danish people and Government wished to participate in the relief assistance for the Kampuchean people who were suffering cruelly from hunger, malnutrition and disease. As a member country of the European Community, Denmark had contributed to the additional grant of $35 million pledged by the representative of Ireland at the previous meeting. The Danish Government had also decided, on 29 October 1979, to contribute the sum of 5 million Danish kroner, on a bilateral basis, for the Kampuchean people and Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. Half of that sum, channelled through the Danish Red Cross Committee, would be allocated to the joint ICRC/UNICEF relief programme and the other half, channelled through Danchurchaid, would be allocated to the relief work being carried out by OXFAM, the World Council of Churches and the Catholic Council of Thailand for Development.

38. His delegation was grateful to the humanitarian agencies which were carrying out that relief work in Kampuchea, and trusted that all the parties concerned would co-operate fully with those agencies so that relief was brought as quickly and as effectively as possible to those who so desperately needed it.

39. The representative of FINLAND said that his country welcomed the convening of the Conference by the Secretary-General and the efforts undertaken, particularly by the ICRC and UNICEF, to bring relief to Kampuchea. Finland, for its part, had pledged a contribution of 2 million markkaa, or a little over $500,000, for the joint emergency relief programme in addition to the aid it had already rendered through the Red Cross and the churches, which amounted to approximately 1 million markkaa.

40. The representative of the LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC said that his country appreciated the feelings of deep concern which the United Nations Secretary-General had expressed regarding the fate of the Kampuchean people,

(Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic)

as of all peoples who were experiencing serious difficulties and deprivation whether due to natural disasters or whether man-made. It also appreciated the efforts made by certain international organizations, including UNICEF and the ICRC, to alleviate the sufferings of the Kampuchean people.

41. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had already provided the Kampuchean people with assistance to a value of $US 2 million in the form of capital goods and basic necessities, as well as 500 tons of rice, and it would continue to provide Kampuchea with bilateral aid in accordance with its capabilities. With regard to international aid, he said that it was imperative to respect the just position taken in that regard by the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea: the aid should not be subject to any condition, it should be channelled through the real ruling body in Kampuchea, i.e. the People's Revolutionary Council, and the ways and means of delivering that aid should be determined by mutual agreement with that Council, duly taking into consideration all the relevant conditions of need, convenience and effectiveness.

42. The delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which had profound feelings of solidarity and fraternity with and compassion for the people of Kampuchea, wished the Conference full success.

43. The representative of CUBA felt that assistance for Kampuchea should be provided to all who were in need of it without any discrimination. Nevertheless, the distribution of aid should not become a pretext for political manoeuvres. His Government was already providing Kampuchea with bilateral assistance in order to help it not only to meet its own needs but also to rebuild the country, and Cuba was planning to expand its assistance in the future. It was to be hoped that emergency international aid, which was currently very necessary, would be only part of the aid that would be supplied to enable the Kampuchean people to return to a normal way of life. The countries which had replied to the Secretary-General's appeal should be able to demonstrate the same generosity to the millions of Palestinians, South Africans, Namibians and Zimbabweans who had been deprived of their homeland.

44. The representative of CHINA said that in the view of his Government, the United Nations should play a role in providing emergency humanitarian relief to Kampuchea. At the same time, it should be stressed that world opinion demanded that the Vietnamese authorities should give explicit assurances that the relief supplies would be distributed by United Nations personnel directly to the Kampuchean people in the various parts of the country. Only in that way would international aid really help to alleviate the suffering of the Kampuchean people. Otherwise, the relief would fall into the hands of foreign aggressors and their puppets and the tragedy of the Kampuchean people would be prolonged and aggravated, which was of course totally impermissible. Furthermore, if the Kampuchean problem was to be solved, the foreign aggressors should be forced to withdraw all their forces from Kampuchea immediately and to halt their aggression against that country and their military occupation of Kampuchean territory.

(Representative of China)

45. The Chinese Government and people had always supported the Kampuchean people in their just struggle against foreign aggression and in defence of their independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity. China had given and would continue to give substantial assistance to the Kampuchean people politically, morally and materially, and it was at the same time in favour of the international community giving humanitarian relief to the Kampuchean people. The Chinese Government also wished to pay a tribute to the Government of Thailand, which had received large numbers of Kampuchean refugees and was providing them with humanitarian relief.

46. The representative of VIET NAM, speaking on a point of order, said that the comments made by the representative of China were not relevant to the Pledging Conference: they reminded one of thief crying "thief!"

47. The CHAIRMAN said that because of the special nature of the Conference and the fact that the rules of procedure of the General Assembly did not apply to it, if a delegation felt obliged to reply to remarks made by a speaker the Secretariat would distribute the written text of that reply to all delegations.

48. The representative of AUSTRIA thanked the Secretary-General for convening the Pledging Conference and likewise expressed his gratitude to the international organizations whose efforts had contributed to launching the relief operation under the most difficult and adverse circumstances. The Austrian Government would provide an initial contribution of 1 million Austrian schillings to the joint UNICEF/ICRC emergency relief programme. In addition, a number of governmental and private organizations in Austria were already carrying out humanitarian relief programmes for the people of Kampuchea; he mentioned of the Austrian branch of Caritas, amounting to 4 million Austrian schillings, which was primarily designed to bring aid to Kampuchean refugees in Thailand.

49. The representative of LUXEMBOURG observed that the sole concern of the international community should be to be able to supply aid without any restriction or discrimination. His country had already made a contribution of 5 million Luxembourg francs to ICRC to provide emergency food aid to Kampuchea through the Luxembourg Red Cross, which had also received an additional aid donation of 700,000 Luxembourg francs.

50. The representative of BULGARIA recalled that at a recent session the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance had decided to provide emergency aid to Kampuchea. That country was currently making enormous efforts to return to a normal way of life and carry out the task of reconstruction. However, it was obvious that in view of the gravity of the situation additional assistance from the international community was necessary. Such assistance should not be subject to any condition and the Conference should not provide the opportunity for unjustified attacks against certain countries by other countries in an attempt to cover up their own machinations. His Government felt that the assistance provided through the United Nations should be channelled directly to the Government of Kampuchea so that it could be effectively distributed and so that its humanitarian purposes could be achieved.

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(Representative of Bulgaria)

51. The Bulgarian Government had provided to date considerable and diversified assistance to the Kampuchean people, on a bilateral basis, amounting to more than $US 6 million. Additional assistance amounting to $US 8 million was currently on its way to Kampuchea. Bulgaria would continue to channel its assistance directly to the Kampuchean Government, which was in the best position to judge needs and decide on the most effective use of the aid provided.

52. The representative of LEBANON said that his country had not forgotten the horrors of the First World War: a third of its inhabitants had died from hunger and many others from disease, while yet others had emigrated. The international community had then come to the rescue of Lebanon, which had survived and had gained a different perception of human solidarity.

53. The Lebanese Government, which was still receiving international aid, wished nevertheless to demonstrate its solidarity with the Kampuchean people: it would pledge a token contribution of LL 50,000 which would come mostly from private citizens in Lebanon who, like the Kampuchean people, had known hunger and war.

54. The representative of the HOLY SEE said that the action already undertaken by the Holy See in an effort to ensure the survival of hundreds of thousands of people in Kampuchea was being carried out at two levels - at the international level the Holy See was co-ordinating all action undertaken by Catholic organizations and associations, while at the local level it was collaborating directly with the responsible national and international authorities to ensure that what was collected was properly distributed. Thus, for example, since the previous July an American religious organization was carrying out a programme amounting to $US 1.7 million to assist the people on the borders of Kampuchea and Thailand; furthermore, European and American organizations were preparing to send 8,000 tons of goods to the Kampuchean population in Thailand. Other American religious organizations hoped to collect $US 5 million. However, in view of the fact that the Conference had been convened so quickly, he was not able to indicate the exact amount of the contribution from the Holy See, but he could already say that it would be substantial.

55. The representative of NEPAL announced a contribution of $US 10,000.

56. The representative of INDONESIA paid a tribute to the many international humanitarian organizations which, by their energetic efforts in South-East Asia, were helping to alleviate the sufferings of the people of the region, and he expressed gratification that the peoples of many nations had responded favourably to their requests for assistance.

57. His Government, for its part, was currently engaged, in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in organizing temporary reception for some 50,000 "boat people" until they found asylum in other countries. Although this placed a heavy burden on it, it nevertheless wished, in a spirit of humanitarian solidarity, to respond to the Secretary-General's

(Representative of Indonesia)

noble initiative and announced that it would make a contribution in order to alleviate the sufferings of the Kampuchean people both in their own country and in Thailand. His Government hoped that it would shortly be able to inform the Secretary-General of the amount and nature of its assistance.

58. The representative of JAMAICA said that his Government unreservedly supported the initiative taken by the Secretary-General in convening the Pledging Conference for Emergency Humanitarian Relief to the People of Kampuchea, who were currently undergoing a national tragedy unprecedented in history.

59. In demonstration of its humanitarian solidarity with the Kampuchean people, the Jamaican Government announced a contribution of $US 5,000 to UNICEF and ICRC that was a nominal sum, in view of its limited resources. Nevertheless, it would be prepared to contemplate making an additional contribution at a later date, if the situation so required.

60. The representative of UGANDA said that all countries, particularly the rich ones, should, setting aside any political consideration, provide assistance as promptly as possible to the Cambodian people, who were devastated by hunger and illness.

61. His Government, for its part, unreservedly supported all the humanitarian efforts made by the United Nations in order to alleviate the sufferings of the Kampuchean people, but, having barely emerged from eight years of economic disaster, it was unfortunately unable materially to make a contribution at the current stage.

62. The representative of ICELAND said that the Icelandic Government and people were following with increasing anxiety the development of the situation in Kampuchea. The overwhelming distress of the people of that country, which was ravaged by war, called for the international community to take urgent steps in order to organize large-scale assistance.

63. Replying directly to the Secretary-General's appeal, the Icelandic Government announced a contribution of 1.2 million Icelandic krónur to UNICEF, UNHCR and ICRC, in order to enable them to implement their joint assistance programme.

64. Furthermore, the Icelandic Red Cross, as well as other voluntary humanitarian organizations, had announced that they would pay a total of 40 million Icelandic krónur through non-governmental international aid organizations.

65. The representative of YUGOSLAVIA said that the United Nations should take swift action in order to alleviate the immense calamity that had befallen the Khmer people. It must, however, be recognized that, however great the efforts expended by the international community, they could only partially alleviate the sufferings of the Kampucheans. The humanitarian problem in Kampuchea could be resolved in its entirety only when its underlying causes were removed, i.e., when an acceptable political settlement was achieved - a settlement that would enable the Khmer people to determine freely their destiny.

(Representative of Yugoslavia)

66. His country had already responded to the appeal launched by the Secretary-General at the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in Southern Asia, held at Geneva in July 1979. Guided by the same humanitarian principles, it wished to respond to the new appeal launched in favour of the Kampuchean people. The Yugoslav Red Cross had decided to participate, within the limits of its possibilities, in the humanitarian efforts expended by the international community: the amount and the nature of its contribution would be announced shortly.

67. Yugoslavia, which whole-heartedly supported that humanitarian aid, believed that it should be directed through the usual channels of, and under the supervision of, international organizations.

68. The representative of the BAHAMAS said that the international community could not remain indifferent to the tragedy currently taking place in Kampuchea: it must take collective emergency measures and make energetic efforts in order to save the dying and feed the hungry. It was the duty of all States to co-operate to that end and to make a contribution, however minimal.

69. The Bahamas was a very small country; however, in sympathy for human suffering and in the conviction that everything must be done to alleviate it, regardless of any consideration of ideology or nationality, it had decided to make a contribution and would inform the Secretary-General of the amount thereof as soon as possible.

70. The representative of ISRAEL said that the conscience of the world was shocked by the tragic and desperate plight of the people of Kampuchea, who could be saved only if all States rendered them prompt assistance.

71. The Government of Israel, for its part, had immediately decided to provide humanitarian assistance. It had sent a team of six doctors and four para-medics to the field clinics operating along the Thai-Kampuchean border, and their efforts were being co-ordinated with those of the International Red Cross. It had delivered two tons of medical supplies and equipment to the region; the cost of those two measures was estimated apparently at $US 55,000.

72. In addition to the measures being taken at the governmental level, the people themselves had expressed in various forms their solidarity with the Kampuchean people. For example, a nation-wide campaign had been launched by a number of groups, and many collections had been made for the purchase of food and medical supplies. That campaign, which had been highly successful had already made it possible to collect 30 million Israeli pounds ($US 0.5 million), which would be employed to purchase a field hospital for use by the Israeli medical team in Thailand.

73. The Israeli people, who knew what it was to suffer and to be refugees, could not remain unmoved by the human tragedy that was occurring in South-East Asia. It was therefore not surprising that Israel's offer of aid to the Kampuchean people had come in the wake of a programme of assistance which it had been extending to other refugees from Indo-China for the preceding two years.

(Representative of Israel)

74. Even before the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia, held in Geneva in July 1979, his Government had appealed to Heads of State to accept Indochinese refugees in proportion to the size of their population and their territory. Israel had itself already accepted almost 400 Indochinese refugees.

75. Israel wholeheartedly endorsed the efforts currently being undertaken by the United Nations to alleviate the suffering of the Kampuchean people, and was prepared to play its part, together with all the nations of the world, in contributing to a solution to that humanitarian problem.

76. The representative of ARGENTINA said that his country had participated in the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia, held in Geneva in summer 1979, and had pledged that it would double its cash contribution to the refugee programme and take in 1,000 families. Despite its remoteness from South-East Asia, Argentina could not remain indifferent to the extremely serious situation of millions of human beings in Indo-China and in particular in Kampuchea. It wholeheartedly endorsed the Secretary-General's new appeal and was gratified to note the constructive attitude of the countries of the region particularly Thailand, which had saved refugees and their families from death.

77. In the face of that situation, his Government had decided to supply Kampuchea with several thousand tons of wheat, according to the transport facilities which countries and relief organizations could place at its disposal. That did not include contributions from private sources. Argentina was also planning to send doctors to the refugee centres, should they prove to be needed.

78. That joint international effort should be followed up after the Conference and further contributions should continue to be made through UNICEF.

79. The representative of CYPRUS said that, although the Government and people of Cyprus were still healing their own wounds, they could not remain indifferent to the tragic fate of the Kampuchean people.

80. Unfortunately, Cyprus was itself facing the enormous problem created by thousands of refugees and displaced persons on its territory who were absorbing the greater part of its resources, and it could therefore make only a symbolic contribution of $US 2,000, $1,000 for the joint UNICEF/ICRC programme and $1,000 for the High Commissioner's programme. However, if the situation in Cyprus improved and the Kampuchean people were still in need of aid, his Government would review the matter.

81. The representative of SOUTH AFRICA said that, within the framework of the assistance provided by the international community with a view to alleviating the suffering of the Kampuchean people and in response to the Secretary-General's appeal, his Government would make available food-stuffs and medical supplies in a total amount of $US 75,000.

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82. The representative of PAKISTAN said that he was gratified that the Secretary-General had taken the initiative in convening the Pledging Conference for emergency humanitarian relief to the people of Kampuchea with a view to alerting world opinion once again to the enormous needs of that people, whose suffering and tragic fate were imposing an increasingly heavy burden of responsibility on neighbouring States and on the whole world. It was clear that only by re-establishing normal and stable conditions in Kampuchea would the tide of refugees be stemmed.

83. The Government and people of Pakistan had not remained indifferent to the tragic fate of the Indochinese refugees who had been forced, in their thousands, to leave their homes and seek refuge elsewhere. Accordingly, his Government, despite constraints and heavy responsibilities, had decided to supply 2,000 tons of rice for emergency relief for the Kampuchean people as a mark of its support for the concept of international humanitarian assistance.

84. The representative of GREECE said that the Pledging Conference for emergency humanitarian relief to the people of Kampuchea provided further tangible proof of the international community's concern at the tragic situation which the Kampuchean people had been experiencing for a number of years.

85. He pledged a cash contribution of $10,000, and said that a larger contribution in kind would be announced later. In addition, Greece had already rendered aid on a number of occasions to the Kampuchean people, in particular by taking in 200 refugees.

CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE

86. The PRESIDENT expressed deep gratitude to all the Governments that had taken part in the Conference. A total of $210 million, in cash and kind, had been pledged to the multilateral aid programme. As a result of the generosity of many Governments, the United Nations and the ICRC would be able to expand the scope of their humanitarian assistance substantially in an endeavour to ensure that the Kampuchean people were no longer decimated by hunger and disease.

87. He paid a tribute to the staff of the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations who were working, often in very difficult conditions, for that great humanitarian cause.

88. The United Nations agencies and the ICRC would, of course, endeavour to make the contributions pledged available to Kampucheans as rapidly as possible. However, although they had been given the necessary financial resources and the moral commitments that would enable them to mount relief assistance to Kampuchea, they were still facing a number of logistical problems which were compounded by political considerations. In endeavouring to surmount the obstacles, the need for practical negotiated arrangements was as important as the mobilization of resources.

(The President)

89. UNICEF, as the United Nations agency responsible for the co-ordination of relief, together with the ICRC, would continue its efforts to enlarge the channels for forwarding and distributing supplies. He would himself continue to follow the situation very closely and would notify the United Nations organs responsible if the efforts to render effective assistance to the starving Kampuchean people were thwarted. In that connexion, he was pleased to announce that he had received assurances which gave grounds to expect that the necessary co-operation would be forthcoming.

90. He declared the Pledging Conference for Emergency Humanitarian Relief to the People of Kampuchea closed.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.